span of 4 to 5 years after obtaining statutory clearances and has the potential to provide Iron Ore supply for another 30 years for Bhilai Steel Plant.

(c) and (d) The raw material received through Rajhara-Durg rail route is adequate to meet the present requirement of the Plant. However, initiatives are being taken by the Indian Railways for upgradation of the rail line.

Taking over of MECON by SAIL

1331. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal for taking over M/s MECON by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

(b) if so, the progress made, so far, in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for taking over of MECON Ltd. by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

(c) MECON is an independent Public Sector Enterprise, engaged in consultancy and project management jobs in a wide ranging fields like Metal, Power, Oil and Gas. MECON is also a leading metallurgical consultant in the country offering its services to steel units, both in public and private sectors. Therefore, independent status of MECON Limited is necessary for overall benefit of the industry as a whole.

12.00 NOON

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Accounts (2005-06) of Coir Board, Kochi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I lay on the table the following papers:—